

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 NEA-09 IO-10

AID-05 FEAE-00 INT-05 CPR-01 /086 W

----- 097327

O R 301630Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3696

INFO USIA WASHDC

/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 2402

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, PE, US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT VELASCO COMMENTS ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S

VISIT, MFM AND OAS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. DURING 4-1/2 HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 29, LARGELY DEALING WITH PERUVIAN DOMESTIC MATTERS, PRESIDENT VELASCO CRITICIZED U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN TALKS OUTSIDE OAS FRAMEWORK BUT EMPHASIZED THAT INVITATION STANDS FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER TO VISIT PERU.

2. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT AS PUBLISHED IN LA PRENSA, VELASCO WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON BUENOS AIRES MFM POSTPONEMENT, WHETHER IT REPRESENTS U.S. DIPLOMATIC FAILURE, AND WHETHER KISSINGER INVITATION STANDS. VELASCO REPLIED QTE. LET'S LOOK AT THE OVERALL PICTURE. YOU RECALL THAT THE U.S. PROMULGATED ITS TRADE LAW. ECUADOR PROTESTED IMMEDIATELY. VENEZUELA BACKED ECUADOR. AND WE CLOSED RANKS BEHIND PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA AND PRESIDENT PEREZ, DEFINING CLEARLY PERU'S

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POSITION. AND IN A LETTER WHICH I WROTE TO THE PRESIDENT OF

VENEZUELA, I TOLD HIM THAT IF THE PROBLEM WAS NOT RESOLVED, PERU WOULD NOT ATTEND THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING. AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, THE SITUATION PERSISTS. HAPPILY, THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED. I BELIEVE THE DIALOGUE SHOULD CONTINUE BUT WITHOUT THE UNITED STATES. I BELIEVE THAT OUR LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES MUST MAKE COMMON CAUSE TO DEFEND THEIR INTERESTS, AND SHOULD MEET ALONE, IN ORDER TO TALK IN SPANISH, REACH AGREEMENT AND HAVE A SINGLE POSITION WHICH, AFTERWARDS, IN ANY CASE, COULD BE PRESENTED IN ENGLISH. BY THIS I DO NOT MEAN THAT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE TO ACT AS A BLOC. THE COUNTRIES CAN PRESENT THEIR IDEAS BUT TALKS WILL HAVE TAKEN PLACE ALREADY AND THE DEFENSE WILL BE COHERENT. END QTE.

3. TURNING TO KISSINGER VISIT, VELASCO WENT ON, QTE. WE PERUVIANS HAVE ALWAYS STOOD OUT AS BEING COURTEOUS AND KIND. IF WE EXTEND AN INVITATION, WE MAINTAIN IT. NOW I DO NOT KNOW THE PLANS OF THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE. THERE HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED REPORTS ABOUT A POSTPONEMENT (OF THE VISIT). BUT, AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, THE INVITATION STANDS. END QTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: IN TAPED VERSION OF PRESS CONFERENCE, VELASCO OBSERVED THAT TRADE LAW DIRECTLY AFFECTED ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA (AS OPEC MEMBERS) AND THAT PERU WOULD SOON BE IN SAME POSITION (AS A HOPEFUL OIL PRODUCER AND OPEC MEMBER). VELASCO ADDED THAT PERU STOOD WITH ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE THE PROBLEM WAS ALSO PERUVIAN. HOWEVER, HE NEVER DID SPECIFY THAT OPEC MEMBERSHIP WAS THE ISSUE. VELASCO CONTINUED THAT UNTIL UNITED STATES DEALS JUSTLY AND HONESTLY WITH LATIN AMERICANS, THE LATTER SHOULD MEET WITH U.S. ONLY IN OAS. ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT, VELASCO WAS EMPHATIC CONCERNING PERU'S INVITATION. QTE. IF WE HAVE INVITED HIM, WE HAVE INVITED HIM. NOTHING CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT. END QTE. VELASCO, WHO SHOOT FROM THE HIP, OBVIOUSLY DID NOT WANT TO WITHDRAW SECRETARY'S INVITATION AND PRESUMABLY EXPECTS THAT HE WILL COME. TONED-DOWN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT (PARA 3), WHICH CONSTITUTES OFFICIAL GOP POSITION, FURTHER REFLECTS CONTINUING GOP DESIRE THAT THE SECRETARY VISIT PERU.

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5. TAPE REVEALS THAT FURTHER QUESTIONS WERE ASKED ABOUT L.A. DIALOGUE AS SEEN BY VELASCO. HE SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR WOULD FOLLOW UP ON HIS PROPOSAL FOR A DIALOGUE WITHOUT THE U.S. NO NEW ORGANIZATION IS REQUIRED, HE STATED. LA FONMINS COULD SIMPLY GATHER IN A LIMA HOTEL AND TALK TO EACH OTHER IN SPANISH. VELASCO STATED THAT OAS IS IN RE-ORGANIZATION BUT THERE IS NO DESIRE TO DESTROY IT FOR A PLACE IS NEEDED TO TALK TO THE ALMIGHTY (SIC).

DEAN

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